



GUIDELINES FOR PREPARING STANDARD URBAN STORMWATER MITIGATION PLANS

I. SUMMARY

The Los Angeles County Municipal NPDES Permit requires certain categories of development projects to implement best management practices (BMPs) that reduce runoff pollution once the project is completed. They include the following:

- Single family hillside homes on a 25% slope under one acre (do not require post-construction runoff infiltration or treatment controls)
- Single family hillside homes on a 25% slope over one acre
- Housing developments 10 units or more
- Industrial or commercial developments that add one acre or more of impervious surface area
- Automotive repair facilities 5,000 square feet or more of surface that fall under standard industrial classification codes 5013, 5014, 5541, 7532-7534 and 7536-7539)
- Restaurants, 5,000 square feet or more of surface area
- Retail and Gasoline outlets
- Parking lots 5,000 square feet or more of surface area or with 25 or more parking space
- Infill projects that are expected to result in the addition of 5,000 square feet of new impervious area or the replacement of 5,000 square feet of existing impervious surface area but only if original line and grade are disturbed.
- Projects situated in or adjacent to an environmentally sensitive area

- Any project that the City deems to be subject to post-construction infiltration and/or treatment controls.

II. POST-CONSTRUCTION RUNOFF MITIGATION

The above-mentioned project categories (also known as planning priority projects) require non-structural and structural BMPs. Examples of non-structural control includes “no dumping” messages on catch basins and proper storage of pollutant materials. Structural controls, on the other hand, either prevent runoff contact with pollutants materials, infiltrate pollutants in runoff to the subsurface, or treat such runoff before it is released to the storm drain system (streets, alleys, gutters, curbs, catch basins, or storm drains that convey runoff to rivers, lakes, oceans, and other water bodies).

All planning priority projects: (1) require “no dumping” signage on catch basins; and (2) may require a reduction in post-construction peak flow. Additional BMPs specific to project use will be required of automotive repair facilities, retail gasoline outlets, restaurants, and industrial/commercial facilities. Planning priority projects will also require post-construction infiltration and/or treatment controls, with a preference for infiltration, to the extent practicable.

Infiltration controls include: various types of vegetation; dry wells/french drains; stormwater chambers; pervious concrete/asphalt; unit pavers; and retention basins/ponds. Treatment controls include detention basins or any device that detains and releases clarified runoff to the storm drain system; and stormwater interceptors and catch basin inserts (controls that clarify runoff through filtration before releasing it to the storm drain system). The City may also require pollutant-specific structural controls that minimize or eliminate the discharge of trash from the project site to the storm drain system.

III. CITY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSIGNING SUSMP CONDITIONS

Once a project that appears to fall under one of the SUSMP planning priority categories is brought to the City’s attention, the developer shall be informed of SUSMP requirements. The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board), which

regulates the SUSMP program, has instructed the City and other municipal permittees to prefer infiltration post-construction BMPs. It is imperative, therefore, that the exact type of post-construction infiltration control be discussed with the City for approval BEFORE GRADING PLANS ARE PREPARED. This is because infiltration controls are dependent on grading. In some instances infiltration may not be feasible in which case the City shall prescribe alternative post-construction runoff pollution mitigation measures.

IV. SUSMP FORMAT

Developers are required to prepare SUSMPs in accordance with a specific format required by the City. The SUSMP is a stand alone document and, therefore, may not be included in a Storm Water Pollution Prevent Plan (SWPPP). This is to assure that the two documents are not confused and that the SUSMP can be easily retrieved by the City for future use. SUSMPs include narrative and site plan information that must compliment each other.

Narrative information includes:

1. Applicant information (name, address, contact telephone number).
2. Name, address, and telephone of individual and firm responsible for preparing SUSMP, address, and telephone number.
3. Name of project contact person, address, and telephone number.
4. Project description in terms of (a) SUSMP category (in this case a commercial re-development expected to add one acre or more impervious surface); (b) total project area; (c) amount of soil expected to be disturbed by grading, clearing, and excavating; (d) pre-construction peak flow/post-construction peak flow; (e) depth to groundwater; (f) general soil conditions; and (g) total pervious and total impervious area before and after construction.
5. Previous use to determine if hazardous materials/waste were used, stored, or disposed at the site (e.g., a gas station or a metal plating facility).

6. Specific uses for the development (industrial and commercial).
7. Expected date to begin grading.
8. Expected date of project completion.
9. An identification of the pollutants that the project is expected to generate (as provided by the City).
10. A narrative explanation of structural¹ (mechanical treatment and infiltration controls) and non-structural controls (e.g., catch basin signage, trash enclosures and other BMPs that are not structural infiltration or treatment controls). If infiltration and/or treatment required, an explanation of why the controls are proposed (pretreatment controls are required for infiltration). The explanation must take into consideration the performance of the control(s) selected in mitigating targeted pollutants, cost, site considerations (space, depth to groundwater, soil conditions, vector breeding, etc.)

SUSMP plan must also include:

1. A vicinity map showing project location and a north arrow.
2. The receiving water that will receive runoff from the project area (a specific reach of a river or ocean water).
3. A site plan containing the following information: (a) project area and boundaries; (b) impervious areas; (c) pervious areas (including all vegetation and permeable surface areas including roof-tops); (d) location of drainage controls (catch basins, drains, pipes, and storm drains); (e) location of trash enclosures; (f) direction of flows originating from both hardscaped and non-hardscaped areas to its end point (either to the control, catch basin, alley, or driveway); (g) location of all points of discharge (e.g., catch basins and driveways); (h) location of trash enclosures; (i) location of use-specific structural and non-structural

¹If an infiltration control is proposed the distance between the bottom of the device to ground water must be provided.

controls prescribed by the City; and (j) location of no dumping signage on catch basins or other specified devices or locations.

4. Details/schematics of the proposed structural controls attached to the SUSMP site plan.
5. A grading/drainage plan.
6. Provide calculations to determine sizing for each of the proposed structural controls (in this case the retention boxes and pre-treatment filters). Refer to Appendix A of the Los Angeles County SUSMP guidelines which can be downloaded from:

http://ladpw.org/wmd/NPDES/SUSMP_MANUAL.pdf

7. A Professional Engineer's stamp.

V. MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

Any priority planning project that requires post-construction structural controls that infiltrate or treat stormwater is required to enter into a maintenance agreement. The purpose of the maintenance agreement is to assure that the prescribed controls perform properly.